Abstract of the Ph.D. Thesis

Entitled

TOURISM CENTERS IN JALGAON DISTRICT: A GEOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS

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Introduction:

The essence of tourism is positive interaction of man with attributes of space. The element of tourism is mobility or movement of man. Thus man's movement through places becomes the subject matter of tourist activities. Hence, tourism is interaction between people and places through movement. The subject of distance in general and perception of distance in particular is very important in the study of tourism. The reason of this is that much of the tourist travel revolves around differences of climates, landforms, experiences, different cultures and different scenery. The distance to be traveled may act as a barrier depending upon how it is perceived by the tourist. During the early part of human history, man would have travelled under compulsion primary to satisfy his biological needs. In the subsequent periods, the emergence of empire gave impetus to travel for political, business, social and religious. Traveling during those times was difficult because of the antiquated transport facilities and lack of safety and comfort in route. Time and cost were the other major basic constraints. The Romans visited temples, shrines, festivals and baths for health and for amusements. Origin of religious visits; particularly the Hindu pilgrimages greatly enlarged the dimension of travel in the past. The incredible progress in the field of industries and other productive activities directly led to economic and social progress, greater progress, higher real income, longer leisure times, and increasingly cheaper and varied tourist plant facilities. The spread of education has created cultural awareness and has stimulated desire to travel.

The progress achieved led extensively to the development of modern tourism by considerably minimizing the time and space. In fact, world has now transformed in to a 'close neighborhood' where one can reach any place in a matter of hours. To quote G. Fraustie "It is generally expected at present that fairly in near future the average citizen of the economically developed country will be able to meet his needs by working thirty hours a week. Thus the time that an individual will devote to productive in future will take up about 6 percent of his existence."

Religion is a part of society; it is common to the group, its beliefs and practices acquired by each individual as a group. It has been an important and vital factor in shaping the society. Great men with high level of intelligence developed all the great religions of the world in a particular geographical setting. The physical surrounding has greatly influenced each religion. In each religion an effect of environment can be noticed in the description of relation between God and man. Such descriptions are largely related to landscape elements such as topography, slope, drainage, vegetation and soil which are mostly influenced and operated through climate. These elements of landscape have influenced all major religions of the world. Religion is a part of society; it is common to the group, its beliefs and practices acquired by each individual as a group. It has been an important and vital factor in shaping the society. Great men with high level of intelligence developed all the great religions of the world in a particular geographical setting. The physical surrounding has greatly influenced each religion. In each religion an effect of environment can be noticed in the description of relation between God and man. Such descriptions are largely related to landscape elements such as topography, slope, drainage, vegetation and soil which are mostly influenced and operated through climate. These elements of landscape have influenced all major religions of the world.

The religious landscape of religion shows influence on cultural landscape as religion is vital part of culture. Such landscapes are called as scared landscapes or holy places. The content of religious landscape is varied ranging from houses of worship to cemeteries, way side shrines and place name, moreover, religion can helps landscapes features such as settlement pattern. The landscape of India reflects the Hindu belief system. Indian sacred landscape is a visible aspect of universal tendency to shape nature in an image of cosmic ideal and thereby make it into a culture artifact, archaic concept of nature and finally religious to nature (Sinha, 1994).

The geography of religion is mainly related to ceremony aspects which are expressed geographically through temples and shrines (Paull Fickler 1962). For religion, travel is necessary part of getting from home to the holy destination and the motive of this leisure time journey is clearly religious. People visit the places of worship and sacred shrines.

At first “Religious Tourism” sounds strange as the nature of pilgrimage, pilgrimage traffic and pilgrimage itself are talked about more often. Certainly, geographer’s experience of the nature of pilgrimage soon leads to the special type of

tourism. Pilgrimage is a particular form of domestic and international tourism. Here, pilgrimage should not be viewed in isolation, though the aim of pilgrimage is purely for religious gain, but at the same time it is also linked with visit to different places in addition to worship of sacred shrines. On the other hand, the domestic tourists, whose aim of touring is pleasure or holiday, when visiting important historical and archeological centers, hill stations, do not forget to visit important religious places. Thus, activity shows the interdependence of tourism and pilgrimage. The interwoven association of this twin phenomenon makes it somewhat difficult to draw a sharp line between tourism and pilgrimage. The pilgrimage and other forms of tourism have much in common. The common aspects are seasonality, economic importance, and local surplus in tertiary sector, high occupancy rate, camping capacity and good inter-regional connections in the spatial activities of travelers (Gisbert and Sievers 1987).

Choice of the study region and topic:

The district lies in the Tapi and Girna basin. The tributaries of Purna are Chandrabhaga, Bhuleshwari, Nand, Wan, Aner. On the left side of bank followong river meets Kapara, Sipana, Gadgi, Dolar, Pedhi, Katpurna, Morana, Man, Nalganga, Biswa.

The district lies between between 20° and 21° North latitudes and 74° 55' to 76° 28' East longitudes. It is bounded by Madhya Pradesh state to the north, and by the districts of Buldhana to the east, Jalna to the southeast, Aurangabad to the south, Nashik to the southwest, and Dhule to the west. The area of the district is 11,765 sq. km. The district consists 15 tehsils namely Jalgaon, Jamner,Chalisgaon,Dharangaon, Bhusawal, Bodwad, Yawal, Raver, Muktainagar, Amalner, Chopda, Parola, Pachora and Erandol.

According to the 2011 census Jalgaon district has a population of 4,224,442. This gives it a ranking of 46th in India. The district has a population density of 359 inhabitants per square kilometre. Its population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 14.71 percent. Jalgaon has a sex ratio of 922 females for every 1000 males and a literacy rate of 79.73 percent.

Jalgaon district has a lot of tourism potential like religious places, fairs and festivals, places of scenic beauty, and historical places. Jalgaon district has been selected as a field of study because this is one of the important districts in Khandesh division of Maharashtra state and has some peculiar characteristics. There are more

than 30 tourist centers of religious, historical and scenic importance in Jalgaon district. But tourism activity is not developed on large scale as compared to other districts.

The study may be useful in understanding tourism development and the impact on the socio- economic development and employment generation in the study area.

Research Hypothesis:

Physical setting and infrastructural facilities are plays an important role in the development of tourism.

Objectives:

1) To identify and map locations and types tourist centers.
2) To map and assess the existing infra-structural facilities.
3) To classify tourist centers by existing activities.
4) To analyze socio-cultural and environmental impact on tourism.
5) To assess spatial distribution of tourists visiting tourist centers.
6) To evaluate significance of tourist places in the study region.
7) To identify new locations having tourism potential and to suggest a strategy for the development of concerned tourist places.
8) To explore the major problems of tourist places in the study region.
9) To suggest a remedial measures for the development of tourism in the study region.

Review of Literature:

There are various themes in tourism but majority of researchers are mainly involved in the economic and management aspects of the activity. Books and articles are specially lacking having for holistic approach to this recently growing phenomenon.

Chettier (1941) his article "Geographical Distribution of Religious places in Tamilnadu is a monumental work. Robbert (1966) in his dissertation on "Distribution of Hindu Holy sites in India" has given distribution and classification of Hindu places. Dube (1968) in his article "Tourism and Pilgrims in Varanasi" attempted to bring out facts and problems of tourism in Varanasi. Sofer David (1958), an American

Geographer in his article pilgrimage circulation in Gujarat reveals a spatial analysis of Gujrathi pilgrim facts.

Cooper C. (1999) entitled "Tourism Principles and Practices" was elaborating theoretical framework of tourism. He underlined concept and indicators of tourism demands. He also emphasized on economic, environmental and socio-cultural impact on tourism development. He highlights issues pertinent to the future of tourism development.

Kayastu and Singh (1977) in their article "A study of preferences and behavior pattern of tourist in Varanasi. A geographical analysis has studied Varanasi as a pilgrimage centre. They have assessed to behavioral pattern of domestic and foreign tourist and made use of it to suggest the future development through tourist point of view. Dube (1987) in his article entitled "Kumbh Mela and Histority of India's greatest Pilgrimage Fair" has studied fair and festivals and showing its importance in the house life from the early times. Singh Rama (1987) in his article "peregrinology and Geographical Guest" has stressed the need of study of peregrinology (pilgrimage study in geography through its spatial approach. He has stressed the need of study of pilgrimage as tourism together with multidisciplinary approach and methodology.

Nikam, Subhash N. (2003), has presented in his research work (unpublished doctoral thesis) entitled "Potential and Prospects for Tourism Development in Nasik District". His attempt has been made to understand for the tourism development by considering four case studies 58 and find out the potential and prospects for the planning at different destinations in the district. His also gave valuable suggestions for tourism development in the Nasik district.

Romila Chawla (2003) wrote an important book entitled "Tourism in the 21st Century". She emphasized on important features of the tourism industry, its contribution to the national integration and creation of harmonious social and cultural environment and also suggests the promotion of arts, crafts and culture and brings about prosperity and sustainable development. Twenty first century is the age of information technology and tourism. She gives aspects and challenges of tourism in the Twenty first century.

Sharma, J.K. (2000) wrote his famous book "Tourism Planning and Development: A New Perspectives". He attempts the basic foundations of tourism planning and development caters to tourism designers, planners and developers of

varied experiences and knowledge for planning of tourism industry in near future. He describes the concept of tourism planning, approaches, techniques and principles applied at various levels. He emphases on integrated approach and incremental increase in quality of tourism services and effective management of tourism. He gives fifty six transportation, services, information and promotion, physical environment and tourism organizations as the basic components for tourism planning and development in a particular region. He not only attempts to present an alternative tourism planning and development process which is sustainable, but also recommends for conceptualizing sustainable development.

These studies have been beneficial to the researcher for identification of potentials and prospects for tourism development in the context of Jalgaon district

Data sources and Methodology

For the present research work, relevant data will be collected from primary and secondary sources. The base map showing the all tourist centers will be prepared. Suitable statistical techniques and cartographic method will be used as research will progress.

Most of the research works will be based on secondary data i.e. district census handbook, statistical abstract and other reliable government publications. Data collected on different aspects of tourism will be processed and given spatial dimensions. The research work will comprise in seven chapters including reference and bibliography. Cauterization of research work is as under:-

Tentative scheme of chapters:

Chapter 1.Introduction

Chapter 2. Profile of the study region

Chapter 3. Spatial Organization of Tourism in Jalgaon district.

Chapter 4.Services available at various tourist centers

Chapter 5.Case studies

Chapter6.Fairs and Festivals

Chapter 7. Summary and Conclusion

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